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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/539,524 | 12/14/2005 | Roberto Polidoro | 08774-275US1 MEG0884 | 4552 |
| 26211 7590 05/02/2008 FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022 | | | EXAMINER JOERGER, KAITLIN S | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3653 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 05/02/2008 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/539,524 | Applicant(s) POLIDORO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner KAITLIN S. JOERGER | Art Unit 3653 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 36-38 and 40-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26, 28-34 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 35 and 37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 36-38 and 40-45 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 4/22/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 24-26, 28-34, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takemoto et al.

Regarding claim 24, Takemoto et al. teaches a method of conveying a banknote comprising: frictionally engaging at least three points with the banknote so as to partially deform the banknote, two of the points engaging opposite faces of the banknote, ssee column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 45, and figure 1; and moving at least one of the points in a direction of intended movement of the banknote so that, at least during conveyance of the banknote, the points have a fixed relative spacing for any given position of the pints and for any given banknote and wherein the at least one point moves to convey the banknote against a reference surface orientated in a direction of movement of the banknote so that the banknote rotates to align the banknote, see column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 45, and figures 2-4.

Regarding claim 25, Takemoto et al. teaches that the points are arranged in a line, see figure 1.

Regarding claim 26, Takemoto et al. teaches moving the banknote relative to at least one point while moving the at least one point, see figure 2-4.

Regarding claim 28, Takemoto et al. teaches a banknote conveyor comprising: at least two surfaces which frictionally engage opposite sides of a banknote so as to deform the banknote and which move to transport the banknote, see figure 1, said surfaces being arranged so that, at least during transport of the banknote, the surfaces have a fixed relative spacing for any given position of the surfaces and for any given banknote, said conveyor further including a reference surface against which the banknotes is conveyed, see figures 1-4.

Regarding claim 29, Takemoto et al. teaches that said surfaces defines at least three points of engagement with the banknote, see figure 1.

Regarding claim 30, Takemoto et al. teaches that the banknote moves relative to at least one point while being conveyed.

Regarding claim 31, Takemoto et al. teaches that the conveyor includes a first and second corrugated roller, see figure 1.

Regarding claim 32, Takemoto et al. teaches that the first and second roller engage to create a seal.

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Regarding claim 33, Takemoto et al. teaches a first and second cam, 24 and 34.

Regarding claim 34, Takemoto et al. teaches that the conveyor include three rollers, see figure 1-4.

Regarding claim 39, Takemoto et al. teaches a banknote conveyor which engages a banknote by means of surface which define a gap of predetermined configuration which is wider than the thickness of the banknote and of non-linear configuration so as to cause bending of the banknote when viewed in the direction of transport so that the force by which the banknote is gripped is dependent upon the rigidity of the banknote and which acts to align the banknote by conveying the banknote against a reference surface orientated in a direction of travel of the banknote so that the banknote rotates, see figure 1-4.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27 and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAITLIN S. JOERGER whose telephone number is (571)272-6938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on 571-272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3653

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kaitlin S Joerger/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3653

29 April 2008